

Relief from toll-dodger traffic jams is coming

Road work clogging up U.S. 13 near Biddles Corner almost finished

By **CHIP GUY**
Staff reporter

Motorists who found themselves stuck in traffic on U.S. 13 when they fled new tolls on Del. 1 in southern New Castle County last month should have an easier commute beginning this week.

By Wednesday, road crews for the state highway department ex-

pect to finish the work that has helped create a traffic bottleneck on U.S. 13 near Biddles Corner since mid-November.

"Then we should be in much better shape," said Michele Ackles, state Department of Transportation spokeswoman.

When the \$1 toll for cars went into effect Nov. 17 at the Biddles Corner plaza on Del. 1, thou-

sands of motorists turned to U.S. 13.

That exodus, combined with lane restrictions and work to rebuild a portion of the old highway to its pre-Del. 1 configuration, caused rush-hour backups.

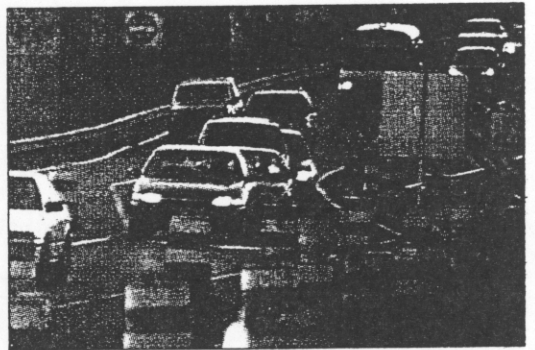
"That first morning, the traffic was backed up ... past the Wawa [at Boyds Corner]," Woodlawn Estates resident Don Nolte said of the two-mile snarl on U.S. 13.

Residents, such as Harry Lebisckak, cite economic reasons for bypassing the new bypass.

"In my case, it would be \$450 extra a year to use [Del.] 1," said Lebisckak, a maintenance mechanic who lives near Townsend and commutes to New Castle. "That's about a week's [salary]."

Motorists who want to avoid the toll can use two ramps linking Del. 1 and U.S. 13, each of which allows passage over the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal via the new Del. 1 bridge.

The recent problems have prompted Rep. Richard C. Cathcart, R-Grande View Farms, to ask the state Department of



The News Journal/WILLIAM BRETZGER

Northbound U.S. 13 traffic slows at the construction where the road joins Del. 1.